

Application No.: 10/785150
Docket No.: CL2074USNA

Page 11

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are in the case. Claim 28 is allowed. The Examiner suggests that only Claims 1-28 are in the case. Applicants assume that this is in error and will respond to the present action under that assumption.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11-17, 19 and 23-25 stand rejected variously under 35 USC § 112 and 102. Claims 2-5, 10, 18, 20, 21, 26 and 27 are objected to.

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 have been amended to more clearly defined applicant's invention.

No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 9 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC § 112 second paragraph for indefiniteness. Specifically the examiner finds the recitation of the density of polyethylene glycol alkyl acrylate polymer chains unclear. Applicants have amended the claims to refer to a density of $10^{-5} \sim 5.0 \mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$. Basis for this amendment may be found on page 18, line 21 of the specification.

Claim Analysis

Applicants take note of the examiner's assessment that the word "device" as recited in claims 17-25 is not being given any patentable weight.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 23-25 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Patten et al (Langmuir, 2001, 17, 4479-81), hereinafter "Patten". It is the examiner's opinion that Patten teaches all elements of the claimed invention. Specifically the Examiner asserts that Patten teaches the present process where the initiator is 3-(dimethylethoxysilyl)propyl-2-bromo-isobutyrate, satisfying the situation where R_1 is C_2H_5 , R_2 and R_3 are CH_3 , and R_5 is C_2H_5 .

Without intending to agree with the Examiner's assessment, Applicants have provided that the initiator cannot be a compound where R_1 is C_2H_5 , R_2 and R_3 are CH_3 , and R_5 is C_2H_5 . In view of this amendment applicants submit that each and every element of the claimed invention is not found in Patten and respectfully request the removal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

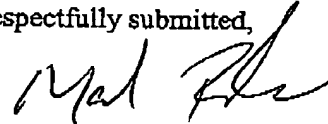
Claims 2-5, 10, 18, 20-21 and 26-27 are objected to as being dependant upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants submit that amendments to the claims have made this objection moot and that all claims are allowable.

Application No.: 10/785150
Docket No.: CL2074USNA

Page 12

Respectfully submitted,



S. NEIL FELTHAM
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT
Registration No.: 36,506
Telephone: (302) 992-6460
Facsimile: (302) 992-5374

Dated: February 10, 2005